

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 /096 W

-----250013Z 076458 /14

R 241255Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4185

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BANJUL 0423

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GA

SUBJECT: CANDIDATES ARE DECLARED FOR PARLIAMENTARY SEATS

REF: A) BANJUL 368

B) BANJUL 384

1. ALL PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES SUBMITTED FORMAL NOMINATION PAPERS TO GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 21, AS REQUIRED BY LAW. THERE WILL BE CONTEST IN EACH OF GAMBIA'S 35 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES, MAINLY STRAIGHT TWO-WAY CONTESTS BETWEEN PPP AND NCP CANDIDATES. NONETHELESS, UP, UP/NLP COALITION, AND TWO INDEPENDENTS HAVE ALSO DECLARED INTENTIONS IN SOME DISTRICTS.

2. UP AND UP/NLP WILL CONTEST 3 BANJUL SEATS AND 7 UP-RIVER CONSTITUENCIES (IN NBD AND MID). BANJUL CANDIDATES ARE PLEDGED TO VOTE FOR SHERIFF DIBBA FOR PRESIDENT, BUT OTHER UP AND UP/NLP CANDIDATES HAVE NOT DECLARED PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE. INDEPENDENTS, PROFESSING NO PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT, WILL CONTEST SABACH SANJAL (NBD) AND SAMI (MID, INCLUDING CITY OF GEORGETOWN).

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3. POLITICAL EMOTIONS ARE RUNNING HIGH AND FIGHTING HAS BROKEN OUT BETWEEN PPP AND NCP BACKERS IN SEVERAL AREAS. MAJOR INCIDENTS INVOLVING ROCK THROWING AND BEATINGS TOOK PLACE IN THE BASSE AREA MARCH 19, AND IN BRIKAMA ON NOMINATION DAY (MARCH 21). VICE PRESIDENT CAMARA ISSUED AN APPEAL IN BASSE FOR CALM, WARNING PEOPLE NOT TO ABUSE DEMOCRACY.

4. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM GHANA MARCH 19, PRESIDENT JAWARA ASKED FOR RESTRAINT, AND TOLD PEOPLE TO CAMPAIGN WITHIN THE LAW, AVOIDING VIOLENCE. LAWS EXIST TO PROTECT THE INDIVIDUAL, PRESIDENT DECLARED, ADDING THAT THOSE WHO ARE THEREATENED SHOULD RESORT TO LAW. CONTINUING HIS PERSONAL CAMPAIGNING, PRESIDENT LEFT BANJUL MARCH 22 FOR FIVE-DAY TOUR THROUGH LRD AND NBD (MIDDLE RIVER AREA). HE IS TO WIND-UP HIS CAMPAIGN WITH TRIP THROUGH WESTERN DIVISION NEXT WEEK. WYGANT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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